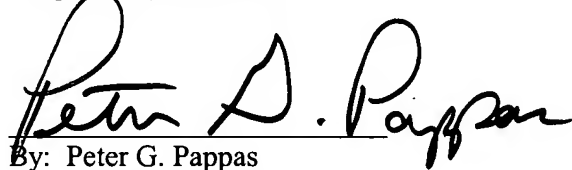


New U.S. Application
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Remarks

Applicants hereby claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) and 35 U.S.C. §365(b) to German Patent Application No. 102 44 928.7 filed September 25, 2002. The specification has been amended to include the priority application information. The claims have been amended to put the claims in a more preferred format for U.S. examination, to eliminate multiple dependencies, and to more clearly recite the claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Pappas", written over a horizontal line.

By: Peter G. Pappas
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